GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2697
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
DECLARATION OF COCONUT AS NATIONAL CROP
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare coconut as National Crop; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to declare coconut as a NationalCrop. However, Government is giving focused attention to development of coconut crop through Coconut Development Board, set up under the Coconut Development Board Act, 1981 for integrated development of coconut industry in India.

For increasing production and productivity of coconuts, product diversification and by-product utilization, the Coconut Development Board under Ministry of Agriculture is implementing programmes, viz., production & distribution of quality planting material; expansion of area under coconut; integrated farming for productivity improvement; technology demonstration; market promotion and statistics; information & information technology; infrastructure and administration. Besides, Scheme for Technology Mission on Coconut has been launched during 2001-2002 for giving focused attention on management of insects, pest and diseases; processing and product diversification; and market research and promotion. Since inception of the Coconut Development Board in 1981, Government has provided an allocation of Rs.298.47 crores to the Board for implementation of various programmes. This includes additional assistance released for rehabilitation of cyclone affected coconut gardens in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa and also for control of eriophyid mite of coconut in southern States.

In order to ensure remunerative prices to coconut farmers, Government of India fix MinimumSupport Price (MSP) every year for milling copra and ball copra and undertake price support operations if the price fall below MSP. The MSP fixed for the years, 2000 to 2002 is as under:-

(Rupees per quintal)

Year	Price fixed by the Government of India	
	Milling Copra	Ball Copra
2000	3250	3500
2001	3300	3550
2002	3300	3550

A meeting was convened by Union Agriculture Minister with Agriculture Ministers of coconutproducing States at Bangalore on 05-05-2002 to discuss various issues, such as, coconut production & protection, product diversification and fall in prices of coconut and procurement of copra etc.